

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY JULY 31

The Hawaiians at Buffalo who are keeping up their bank accounts will need them by and by. As the big fair nears completion the chances of their getting either pay or food from the King of the Midway may grow small by degrees and beautifully less.

Judge Humphreys' paper quotes him as praising the missionaries and classing the Hawaiians as an inferior race. Just what the game is we have not yet made out, but the ill-success of Humphreys' previous overtures to the missionary element prompts us in the belief that he will find its appetite for molasses and soft soap still delicate.

Women who have incomes are chary about putting in their returns at the tax window and some will probably incur the 200 per cent penalty. Should the new law be held constitutional this fine as well as the routine tax could be collected. Women of business, whether they keep shops, run boarding houses or earn salaries, should see that their returns are made within the time limit which expires with the present month.

David B. Hill tells his intimate friends that he will seek the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1904. This is the fulfillment of a party wish which has found many ways of expressing itself. Mr. Hill loomed up as a favorite leader at the Kansas City convention and he is now, perhaps, the most conspicuous Democrat in the country save Bryan. As the latter has become a negligible quantity, owing to his two defeats, the way for Hill would seem to be very clear indeed.

The absentee Territorial Circuit Judge has caused it to be announced in the Argonaut, Examiner, certain Arizona papers and the New Orleans Picayune that he is a United States Circuit Judge. This is a small matter, perhaps, but it throws a strong side-light on the unvarnished vanity of the man, who is no more a United States Circuit Judge than the Hawaiian Supreme Court, which frequently upsets his decisions, is a United States Supreme Court. An appointment by the President to a Territorial Judgeship, either Circuit or Supreme, does not make one a member of the Federal judiciary. Humphreys as a "United States Circuit Judge" is travelling under false pretences, a role, however, that is by no means new to him.

Captain Dowdell put himself outside the pale of Washington society when he interfered with the Princess Theresa's hula pastime aboard ship. He probably did not know that when a society leader puts the stamp of her approval upon any form of drawing-room amusement, the polite world accepts it at face value. As hula artist in ordinary to the White House, the Princess certainly felt that she had a right, which she could share with her friends, to go through the convolutions of the dance on any vessel flying the American flag. Captain Dowdell thought differently and that is why he will get the glassy eye and the frozen mitt whenever he seeks recognition at a White House soiree. A dark woman has crossed his path.

ISLAND AMERICANISM.

A man coming here from the Mainland easily falls into the error of supposing that Hawaii, in the persons of its white residents, is un-American because many of its customs and points of view are different from those with which he is familiar. He perhaps conceives that California is different in its customs and sentiments from Kansas and Kansas from Massachusetts, and that both differ from Louisiana without any one of them losing its right to be called American; but when it comes to Hawaii he insists that, in test of Americanism, there shall be no differences at all. That is where he is unjust and also ignorant of the variances which enter into the life and history of all strange nations.

The United Kingdom has several dialects and as many different ways of regarding national duty. Yet the mass of the people wherever located and whether speaking in the cockney accent or with the burr of the Yorkshiremen, and notwithstanding their clashes of opinion about home rule for Ireland and freedom for the Boers, are loyal subjects of the King. France still has its Normans, its Gascons and its Parisians, its clashing parties and its divergent customs, yet when France calls all respond. Germany is still a group of cousins and Austria is a congress of petty States dating back to fierce rivalries and enmities and to racial groups related to one another in no way save through Adam. Yet who doubts the general patriotism of the subjects of William or Francis Joseph?

It takes all kinds of people to make a nation as well as a world, and the United States is not exempt from the rule. Into its complex national life enter the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Teutonic, Latin, Scandinavian, Slavic, African and Polynesian strains; the morals of the roundhead Puritan and the chivalry of the cavalier Southern; the Roman and the English law; the religions of all the earth, from the creed of the Buddhist to the Voodoo rite of the African; and its politics reaches out with one hand for democracy and with another for Roman imperialism. But nevertheless there stands the American nation four square to all the winds that blow! Shall Hawaii be counted alien to it because local necessities and conditions have made its public and private life, its habits of thought and its political customs different from those of Missouri or New Hampshire or Arizona?

God forbid! That would be a poor return to a people who sent a larger percentage of their active young men to help the North in the Civil War than did some Western Territories; who were so loyal to the North that vessels under their flag were indiscriminately burned by Confederate privateers; and who at a later day risked life, property and soul for the sake of bringing these Islands under the Stars and Stripes.

STATEHOOD.

Delegate Wilcox has been quick to see that Statehood, if it ever comes to Hawaii, will be a plant of slow growth. Before he went to Washington he felt sure that the great prize would be had for the asking, but contact with American politics at its focal point taught him better. He now classes his Statehood policy with mere preliminary measures that look a long way ahead; and doubtless, if he were to confess the whole truth, he would say that few people now living may reasonably expect the day when Hawaii will exchange its Territorial swaddling clothes for the toga of State privilege and dignity.

The history of New Mexico and Arizona has been one of constant but unavailing struggle for Statehood; and yet New Mexico, ten years ago, had 153,553 population, or one a trifle larger than that of Hawaii now. Arizona was organized as a Territory in 1863 and New Mexico in 1850, so the latter has been held as a Territory for forty-one years. Why did New Mexico not come in long ago, seeing that other Territories of later origin and smaller population have become States? The reason is one that applies with singular fidelity to Hawaii—the presence of a mongrel voting population, not to be depended on for carrying out the Anglo-Saxon ideals of government. In New Mexico the mixture is Mexican and aboriginal; here it is a marked aboriginal basis with an infusion of Latin strains and a great confusion of strains in prospect. Of the two Territories Hawaii is least fitted for the exercise of State duty and so long as it is necessary for the safety of our sugar interests to import alien labor, and while the natives are in a voting majority, so long will Statehood be withheld from us. New Mexico and Arizona, when they appeal for promotion on the ground that Nevada and Wyoming and Utah have had it and that Oklahoma is to have it soon, are always told emphatically that these Territories had a white American majority and that, even then, it was a mistake to admit Nevada. The same answer would be made to Hawaii.

The advocates of Statehood argue hypothetically that the time may come when Congress, if held by a narrow majority, will admit Hawaii merely to gain two Senators and a Congressman to reinforce the party in power. That was the argument for admitting two or three Territories, including Nevada, but the political results in those cases have made Congress doubtful of its value. Each rewarded Territory forgot its political creator and ran after false gods. Admitted to help one party, it supported another, proving how true it is in politics that gratitude reckons nothing of the past but is merely a lively sense of favors to come. Surely in view of the ease with which the native majority here forgets its pledges and sneers at honor and probity as the Home Rule Legislature has continuously done, there is nothing in a Hawaiian promise which would give this Territory more credit as an applicant for Statehood than would be granted a Territory of the Mainland.

The part of wisdom is for our people to indulge in no iridescent dreams of Statehood but to get their feet to get for Hawaii the guarantees that its Territorial integrity will be preserved. Since the insular decisions were rendered even that is in peril and there is already talk in the papers of altering the Organic Act and sending a commission here to rule us. We must, therefore, try and save what we have, rather than to grasp for the greater things that are unattainable. To be sure, there are those among us who despair of ever having honest and intelligent home rule and point to the record of the First Territorial Legislature to show why. But there is a sure way of defense from the vote of the prejudiced, the alien and the ignorant, and that is in an American franchise which shall confine the suffrage to those otherwise competent, who can read and write the English language. Once this change has been made the political situation of Hawaii will be cleared up.

ALABAMA'S SUFFRAGE PLAN.

A Montgomery telegram of July 5 analyzes the rather complex-looking suffrage law of Alabama and simplifies its meaning. The law, we are told, is composed of two independent plans totally different in their operation and in their bearing on the whites and blacks. The first strikes boldly at the negro, the second aims at the illiterate and the unsettled of both races. The first is temporary and lasts only to January 1, 1903. As the new constitution cannot be adopted until late this fall, the scheme can be operated for just one year.

The second plan is permanent and begins where the other ends. Only two things are common in both plans, a poll tax prepayment of \$1.50 and disfranchisement for crime. Great importance is attached to both of these. The poll tax must be paid by January 1 prior to the election and is purely voluntary. The list of crimes includes such as wife-beating and vagrancy.

The purpose of the plan, which ends on January 1, 1903, is to make up a list of voters with all the white folk in it and as few negroes as possible. Once on a voter is on for life by keeping up his poll tax. But being left off he can try again under the permanent plan. A board of three registrars is created for each county, who are required to register all old soldiers and their descendants. All others must show good character and understand the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government.

The board sits as a court, takes evidence and puts the applicant on oath. Its discretion is absolute except as to the soldiers and their descendants. All others must come up to whatever standard of character and understanding may be set by the board. An appeal lies to the Circuit and Supreme Courts but this is designed to satisfy the popular ideas of justice rather than for practical operation. There is wide distrust of registrars with judicial powers and hence the limitation of their life to a single year. They are created all only to meet the pledge in the Democratic platform that no white voter shall be disfranchised. After January 1 their places will be taken by other registrars with ministerial powers. After January 1, 1903, a voter, first must be able to read and write the English language, and second, be able to show that he has been engaged in some lawful occupation for twelve months preceding, and third, be able to show who have been his employers for five years; fourth, if he cannot read or write he may nevertheless vote if he

owns forty acres of land or pays taxes on \$300 of assessed property.

Under this plan there is no discrimination contemplated between the races. A new registration plan will be provided by the Legislature, but the registrars cannot add to nor take from the qualifications named. The requirement that a voter must read and write "English" affects only a few men in Alabama who read and write any other language. An effort may be made to amend this, as it might affect immigration of labor at some time when it may be worse needed than now.

Qualification No. 2 is aimed at gamblers and dead-beats, nearly all of whom in this State are white. Qualification No. 3 is aimed at the large class of wandering negroes and a smaller class of whites, who go from mill to mill, mine to mine, camp to camp and never have a local habitation and often not a name.

The minority report makes no objection to any part of the scheme except the clause giving the descendants of soldiers the right to vote. This privilege lasts only until 1903, and if such a descendant does not register before that time he must take his chance with the balance of the folks. The question is asked whether, if a man be rejected by the Registrars prior to 1903, he can come in again under the permanent plan. The answer is that he can. His qualifications under the permanent plan are not affected by his disqualification under the temporary scheme. The real and only purpose of the temporary plan is to get all white men who can now vote on the lists regardless of their ability to read and write. Those who reach 21 years or come into the State after January 1, 1903, must take their chances without regard to race. The temporary plan does not in its terms make any discrimination as to race. The discrimination is proposed to be made in the administration by the Registrars.

The mildness of the Alabama plan as compared with those of Mississippi, Louisiana and North Carolina is in the fact that while it adopts the expedients of all three, these expedients terminate on January 1, 1903. After that all men must pay their poll taxes, read and write, show a lawful occupation for twelve months and name their employers for five years or else pay taxes on \$300 of property or own forty acres of land.

There will be few regrets that the money of the Territory is not to be wasted on the Charleston and St. Louis expositions. Hawaiian exhibits at the world's fairs, eclipsed as they always are by displays of former Island barbarism, have never been worth half the money they cost.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Has Overcome the Suicide Habit.

"One of my best friends," said an Eastern lawyer, "is a man who has tried suicide twice. The first time, on an August night, he swallowed a bottle of laudanum, bade his wife farewell reproachfully, and lay down in his front yard on the grass to die. But he had taken an overdose, and a few days later I visited him in his sick room, and we conversed on general topics, without any reference to the laudanum. The second time he was walking with his wife on a cliff that overlooked the sea. 'Now I will end it,' he exclaimed, and leaped down nearly sixty feet to the beach, only breaking a leg and two ribs. Since then his wife has died, and he has remarried, and there is no fear of his trying suicide again. Naturally, he is sensitive on the subject. I am his best friend, and self-destruction is a topic that I and all who know him well avoid with him. Indeed, if he is present when this topic is brought up he leaves the room at once."

Had the Doctors Treat His Rabbit.

A little Philadelphia boy carried a basket into a hospital dispensary the other day. Taking a pet rabbit from the basket, he begged some of the doctors to do what they could to relieve his bunny from suffering. An examination showed that the rabbit had an abscess in its right ear. One surgeon held the little animal, while another lanced the swelling. After the treatment the rabbit showed every sign of being grateful, while the owner wanted to know if a \$5 bill was sufficient to pay for the operation. On being told that there was no charge the grateful little fellow thanked the physicians warmly, and putting the rabbit back into the basket, hurried home.

Mikado's Fat Allowance.

The Emperor of Japan has an allowance of something like \$2,000,000 a year to keep up the imperial establishment. He has also a large private fortune, having invested in stocks and a great deal of wealth in land. At the close of the Chinese-Japanese war parliament voted his majesty 20,000,000 yen, an amount equal to 10,000,000 gold dollars, out of the indemnity paid by the Chinese, as a mark of gratitude for his directing the naval and military operations.

Snapshotters Are Barred.

William K. Vanderbilt does not intend that "Idle Hour," his new home at Oakdale, Long Island, shall be photographed without his permission. He has had pictures taken of the mansion, grounds and rooms from all sorts of viewpoints, and has had the photographs copyrighted. Any other pictures, it is supposed, will be violations of the copyright law.

How Russia Favors the Women.

Although the Russians are not noted for their gallantry toward women they have scored one on other people. St. Petersburg has recently been provided with new taximeter cabs. They work on a dual system, one for ladies and the other for gentlemen, the authorities having been thoughtful enough to introduce a new tariff, according to which ladies are only required to pay half the fare demanded of mere men.

For the Old "Johnnies" at Memphis.

A tobacco company has contributed for the comfort of the Confederate veterans at their coming reunion at Memphis, Tenn., 2,000 pounds of smoking tobacco, 10,000 pipes and 10,000 boxes of matches. The tobacco alone is worth 60 cents a pound, jobbing rates. The 2,000 pounds means 12,000 rations. This contribution follows one of 14,000 rations of chewing tobacco from another company.

Sold-Plated Real Estate.

The highest price for New York real estate was paid on Saturday, when a parcel of land at Broadway and Thirtieth street was sold for \$350 a square foot. It contained 1,100 square feet and brought \$375,000. The dimensions are 31 x 45 feet.

The Small of the Back

That is where some people feel weak all the time.

They are likely to be despondent and it is not unusual to find them borrowing trouble as if they hadn't enough already.

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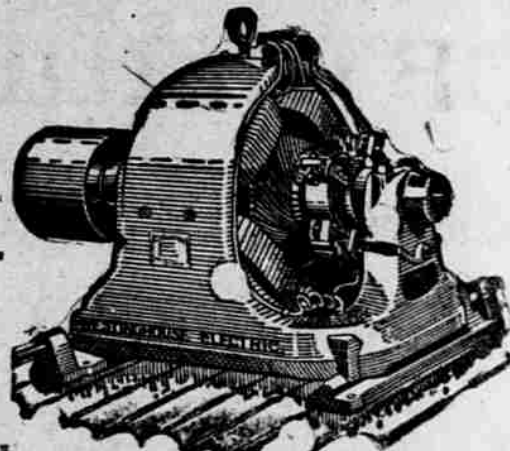
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